

What is claimed is:

1. A method of creating and maintaining a consumer-driven healthcare database, comprising the steps of:

providing a first set of medical data from a first healthcare provider to a data management system, the first set of medical data containing medical information regarding a healthcare consumer;

providing a second set of medical data from the healthcare consumer to the data management system, the second set of medical data containing medical information regarding the healthcare consumer and the healthcare consumer having access to the first and second sets of medical data stored within the data management system;

categorizing each of the first and second sets of medical data, respectively, within the data management system into at least a first category;

retrieving selected portions of data by the healthcare consumer from either of the first and second sets of medical data, respectively; and

supplying the selected portions of data to either one of the healthcare consumer and a second healthcare provider.